

Cedar Plank House
Hancocks Bridge, Salem County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-106

HABS

N.J.

17. HANBR

2.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Cedar Plank House
Hancocks Bridge, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Commission on Historic Sites, State of
New Jersey

Custodian: Salem County Historical Society

Date of Erection: Before 1701

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Moved from Nittingers Corner on
Salem-Hancocks Bridge Road to
rear of Hancock House at Hancocks
Bridge by C.W.A.

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - concrete

Exterior walls - hewn
white cedar plank four
inches thick, gables
siding

Interior walls - plank
sides, no ceiling

Roof - pitch, shingles

Historical Data:

The Cedar Plank House originally stood on land owned by the late John Tyler. The planks of which this house is made were hewn from logs pulled from the swamps. Years ago the trees of South Jersey were largely white cedar. White cedar needs fresh water for its growth; in time either the land sank or

the sea rose, and the salt water reached these trees; they died in great numbers. Many of them, still living, fell over in the swamp and were covered by deposits of muck and peat. These were dug from the swamps and split and hewn by hand.

The plank house was standing when William Tyler, an immigrant to Salem County about 1688, made his will in 1701. The house consists of one room with an open fireplace. There are closets on each side of the fireplace and over the doors of these closets there is to be seen some unusual grill work which was taken from some of the old houses near Hancocks Bridge.

Bibliography:

"Colonial Roof-Trees" and "Candle Ends"
Salem County Historical Society, 1934

Halter G. Ruth
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour W. Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.T.A.
District Officer